

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act as amended, (33 U.S.C. §§1251 et seq.; the "CWA", and the Massachusetts Clean Water Act, as amended, (M.G.L. Chap. 21, §§26-53),

**Cohasset Sewer Commission
41 Highland Avenue
Cohasset, MA 02025**

is authorized to discharge from a facility located at

**Cohasset Wastewater Treatment Plant
43 Elm Street
Cohasset, MA 02025**

to receiving water named Cohasset Cove/Harbor

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth herein.

This permit and the authorization to discharge expire at midnight, five years from the effective date. The effective date of the permit is the day the upgraded treatment facility starts operating.

This permit supersedes the permit issued on June 9, 1979.

This permit consists of 7 pages in Part I including effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, etc.; Attachment A, Marine Acute Toxicity Test Procedure and Protocol; and 35 pages in Part II including General Conditions and Definitions.

Signed this 17th day of October, 2000

/Signature on file/

Linda M. Murphy,
Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection
Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
Boston, MA

Director, Division of
Watershed Management
Department of Environmental
Protection
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Boston, MA

Footnotes:

1. Report maximum and minimum daily rates and total flow for each operating date. Report a 12 month moving average, the arithmetic mean of the monthly average flow for the immediate preceding 12 months.
2. A 24-hour composite sample will consist of at least twenty four (24) grab samples, which are flow proportional, and taken during a calendar day.
3. Required for State Certification.
4. The LC_{50} is the concentration of effluent which causes mortality to 50% of the test organisms. A 100% limit means that a sample of 100% effluent (no dilution) shall cause no more than a 50% mortality rate.
5. The permittee shall conduct acute toxicity tests four times each year during the months of February, May, August, and November and submit the results in the DMRs on the 15th of March, June, September, and December. See Attachment A for toxicity testing protocols.

After one year of satisfactory toxicity testing results, the permittee may submit to EPA and MADEP a written request for a permit modification of its toxicity test requirements. The EPA and MADEP will decide if the permit may be modified following review of the toxicity test results.

Acute whole effluent toxicity tests shall be performed on the species, Mysidopsis bahia and Menidia beryllina in accordance with Attachment A.

6. The analytical testing method for total nitrogen shall be an EPA standard method and the analytical testing method for ammonia will be standard method 4500-NH₃-F.

Part I.A.1. (continued)

- a. The discharge shall not cause a violation of the water quality standards to the receiving waters.
- b. The pH of the effluent shall not be less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5 at any time, unless these values are exceeded due to natural causes. The permittee shall take four (4) grab samples per sampling event and report the highest and lowest measured values.
- c. The effluent shall contain neither a visible oil sheen,

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foam, nor floating solids at any time.

- d. The discharge shall not cause objectionable color, odor or turbidity to the receiving waters.
 - e. The permittee's treatment facility shall maintain a minimum of 85 percent removal of both total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand. The percent removal shall be based on monthly average values.
 - f. When the effluent discharged for a period of 90 consecutive days exceeds 80 percent of the design flow, the permittee shall submit to the permitting authorities a projection of loadings up to the time when the design capacity of the treatment facility will be reached, and a program for maintaining satisfactory treatment levels consistent with approved water quality management plans.
2. The permittee must provide adequate notice to the Director of the following:
- a. any new introduction of pollutants into that POTW from an indirect discharger in a primary industry category discharging process water and
 - b. any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into that POTW by a source introducing pollutants into the POTW at the time of issuance of the permit.
 - c. For purposes of this paragraph, adequate notice shall include information on:
 - (1) the quantity and quality of effluent introduced into the POTW; and
 - (2) any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.
3. Toxics Control
- a. The permittee shall not discharge any pollutant or combination of pollutants in toxic amounts. Upon promulgation of any federal water quality standard(s), this permit may be revised or amended in accordance with such standard(s).

- b. The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00) include requirements for the regulation and control of toxic constituents and also require that EPA criteria, established pursuant to Section 304(a) of the CWA, shall be used unless a site specific criteria is established.
- 4. The permittee shall submit a report to the EPA and the MADEP within 30 days from the day the treatment plant begins operation. The report shall describe the plant upgrades and status of the upgrades, the date of initiation of operation and discharge, and any substantial change in volume or characteristics of pollutants introduced into the treatment works.

B. Operation and Maintenance of the Sewer System

Operation and maintenance of the sewer system shall be in compliance with the General Requirements of Part II and the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Maintenance Staff
The permittee shall provide an adequate staff to carry out the operation, maintenance, repair, and testing functions required to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.
- 2. Infiltration/Inflow
The permittee shall eliminate excessive infiltration/inflow to the sewer system. A summary report of all actions including but not limited to, identifying defects and repairs to pipes, manholes and improper and illegal drain connections taken to minimize infiltration/inflow during the previous twelve months shall be submitted to EPA and the MA DEP by February 19th of each year.
- 3. Alternate Power Source
In order to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, the permittee shall continue to provide an alternative power source with which to sufficiently operate its treatment works, as defined in 40 CFR 122.2.

C. SLUDGE CONDITIONS

1. General Conditions

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- a. The permittee shall comply with all existing Federal and State laws and regulations that apply to sewage sludge use and disposal practices and with CWA Section 405(d) technical standards. If an applicable management practice or numerical limitation for pollutants in sewage sludge more stringent than existing Federal and State regulations is promulgated under Section 405(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), this permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued to conform to such promulgated regulations.
- b. The permittee shall give prior notice to the Director and to the Administrator of any change(s) planned in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practice.
- c. A change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practice is a cause for modification of the permit. It is a cause for revocation and reissuance of the permit if the permittee requests or agrees.
- d. Annual reports for sludge monitoring are due on February 19.

D. MONITORING AND REPORTING

1. Reporting

Monitoring results obtained during the previous month shall be summarized for each month and reported on separate Discharge Monitoring Report Forms postmarked no later than the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period. The first report is due on the 15th day of the month following the effective date of the permit.

Original signed Discharge Monitoring Reports and all other reports required herein, shall be submitted to the Director at the following addresses:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Planning and Administration (SPA)
P.O. Box 8127
Boston, MA 02114

The State Agency is
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Metro Boston/Northeast Regional Office
205 A Lowell Street
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887

Signed and dated toxicity test reports and

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information required shall also be submitted to:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Watershed Management
627 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

E. STATE PERMIT CONDITIONS

1. This discharge permit is issued jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Agency (MADEP) under Federal and State laws, respectively. As such, all the terms and conditions of this permit are hereby incorporated into and constitute a discharge permit issued by the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to M.G.L. Chap. 21, §43.
2. Each Agency shall have the independent right to enforce the terms and conditions of this Permit. Any modification, suspension or revocation of this Permit shall be effective only with respect to the Agency taking such action, and shall not affect the validity or status of this Permit as issued by the other Agency, unless and until each Agency has concurred in writing with such modification, suspension or revocation. In the event any portion of this Permit is declared invalid, illegal or otherwise issued in violation of State law such permit shall remain in full force and effect under Federal law as a NPDES Permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In the event this Permit is declared invalid, illegal or otherwise issued in violation of Federal law, this Permit shall remain in full force and effect under State law a Permit issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PART I

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. During the period beginning the effective date and lasting through expiration, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall serial number 001 (treated municipal wastewater) to Cohasset Cove/Harbor.

The permittee shall notify EPA and MADEP that it intends to commence discharging at least 90 days prior to commencing the discharge. Upon commencing of the discharge to Cohasset Cove/Harbor, such discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

| <u>Effluent Characteristics</u> | <u>Discharge Limitations</u> | | | <u>Monitoring Requirements</u> | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <u>Average Monthly</u> | <u>Average Weekly</u> | <u>Maximum Daily</u> | <u>Measurement Frequency</u> | <u>Sample Type</u> |
| Flow, MGD | 0.300 | | | Continuous ¹ | Daily |
| BOD ₅ , #/day | 75 | 113 | Report | Weekly | 24-hr.comp ² |
| mg/l | 30 | 45 | Report | Weekly | 24-hr.comp ² |
| TSS, #/day | 75 | 113 | Report | Weekly | 24-hr.comp ² |
| mg/l | 30 | 45 | Report | Weekly | 24-hr.comp ² |
| pH ³ | See I.A.1.b. | | | Daily | Grab |
| Fecal Coliform ³ , MPN/100 ml | 14 | | 43 | 3/Week | Grab |
| Ammonia ⁶ | Report | | | Weekly | 24-hr.comp ² |
| Total Nitrogen ⁶ | Report | | | Weekly | 24-hr.comp ² |
| <u>Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing</u> | | | | | |
| LC50 ⁴ | | | 100% | 1/Quarter ⁵ | 24-hr.comp ² |

